

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A data storage medium, comprising:

a substrate comprising an amorphous thermoplastic resin having a heat distortion temperature of at least about 140°C measured at 66 pounds per square inch according to ASTM D648;

a reflective metal layer; and

a haze-prevention layer interposed between the substrate and the reflective metal layer, wherein the haze-prevention layer comprises a metal having a tensile modulus of at least about 15×10^6 pounds per square inch measured at 25°C according to ASTM D638; wherein the haze-prevention layer comprises at least about 50 weight percent of a metal selected from antimony, chromium, cobalt, iridium, iron, molybdenum, nickel, palladium, platinum, rhenium, rhodium, tantalum, titanium, tungsten, and vanadium; and wherein the haze-prevention layer contacts the substrate and the reflective metal layer.

2. (original) The data storage medium of Claim 1, wherein the amorphous thermoplastic resin is selected from polyetherimides, polyetherimide sulfones, polysulfones, polyethersulfones, polyphenylene ether sulfones, poly(arylene ether)s, polycarbonates, polyester carbonates, polyarylates, and mixtures thereof.

3. (original) The data storage medium of Claim 1, wherein the amorphous thermoplastic resin comprises a polyetherimide.

4. (original) The data storage medium of Claim 1, wherein the substrate is substantially free of inorganic filler.

5. (original) The data storage medium of Claim 1, wherein the substrate has a thickness of about 0.1 to about 20 millimeters in a dimension perpendicular to the haze-prevention layer and the reflective metal layer.

6. (original) The data storage medium of Claim 1, wherein the substrate has a thickness of about 0.1 to about 5 millimeters in a dimension perpendicular to the haze-prevention layer and the reflective metal layer.

7. (original) The data storage medium of Claim 1, wherein the reflective metal layer comprises a metal selected from the group consisting of aluminum, silver, gold, nickel, palladium, platinum, copper, and alloys thereof.

8. (original) The data storage medium of Claim 1, wherein the reflective metal layer comprises aluminum.

9. (original) The data storage medium of Claim 1, wherein the reflective metal layer has a thickness of about 10 to about 1000 nanometers.

10. (canceled)

11. (original) The data storage medium of Claim 1, wherein the haze-prevention layer comprises chromium.

12. (original) The data storage medium of Claim 1, wherein the haze-prevention layer has a thickness of about 1 to about 1000 nanometers.

13. (original) The reflective article of Claim 1, further comprising a protective layer having a percent transmittance of at least 90% measured according to ASTM D1003; wherein the reflective layer is interposed between the haze-prevention layer and the protective layer.

14. (original) The data storage medium of Claim 1, comprising a surface with a reflectivity of at least 80% measured according to ASTM D523.

15. (currently amended) A data storage medium, comprising:

a substrate comprising a polysulfone resin having a glass transition temperature of at least about 170°C;

a reflective metal layer comprising aluminum; and

a haze-prevention layer interposed between the substrate and the reflective metal layer, wherein the haze-prevention layer comprises at least 50 weight percent chromium and ~~has a tensile modulus of at least about 30x10⁶ pounds per square inch measured at 25°C according to ASTM D638~~, and wherein the haze-prevention layer contacts the substrate and the reflective metal layer.

16. (currently amended) A method for preparing a data storage medium, comprising:

applying a haze-prevention layer to a surface of a substrate, wherein the haze-prevention layer comprises a metal having a tensile modulus of at least about 15x10⁶ pounds per square inch measured at 25°C according to ASTM D638; wherein the haze-prevention layer comprises at least about 50 weight percent of a metal selected from antimony, chromium, cobalt, iridium, iron, molybdenum, nickel, palladium, platinum, rhenium, rhodium, tantalum, titanium, tungsten, and vanadium; and wherein the substrate comprises an amorphous thermoplastic resin having a heat distortion temperature of at least about 140°C measured at 66 pounds per square inch according to ASTM D648; and

applying a reflective metal layer to a surface of the haze-prevention layer.

17. (previously presented) The data storage medium of Claim 1, wherein the haze-prevention layer has a thickness of at least about 50 nanometers.

18. (canceled)